

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 11 (paragraph [0024]) with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0024] The lower furnace chamber 14, which can be isolated from the upper chamber 12 by the isolation valve 16, contains a heater 24 used to melt polycrystalline silicon chunks 26 inside a quartz crucible 28. The quartz crucible 28 can be raised or lowered within the heater by a ~~successor~~ susceptor 30. Depending on the type of single crystal silicon that is being grown, a heat shield 32 may be installed after the quartz crucible 28 is loaded with silicon chunks to be melted.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 9 (paragraph [0046]) with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0046] FIG. 3C shows a rod hanger system that is similar to the hanger system shown in FIG. 3A, except that in the system of FIG. 3C, the body portions 166C and 170C are generally triangular in vertical cross-section instead of being generally circular. As in the embodiment of FIG. 3A, the neck portion 168C of the rod hanger 152C extends through the neck portion 164C of the keyhole 150C and the depth D and shape of the keyhole 150C are such that ~~that of the~~ the bottom of the rod hanger 152C is located at an elevation above the bottom of the keyhole 150C when the rod 134C is supported by the rod hanger 152C. The entire groove of the rod shown in FIG. 3C extends substantially straight through the rod between two locations on the cylindrical side surface 135C. Thus the front of the rod 134C, as viewed parallel to the axis of the keyhole body portion 166C, is substantially a mirror image of the rear of the rod 134C, as viewed parallel to the axis of the keyhole body portion 166C. FIG. 3C shows how the groove can have an extension slot 174C provided below the body portion 166C that extends between two locations on the surface of the rod. Such an added slot can be provided to accelerate the separation of residual rod parts. As the lift mechanism approaches the surface of a melt, the rod will melt up to the level of that portion of the groove that is the lowest open horizontal pathway between two

the rod 134C consists of two or more separate pieces of polycrystalline silicon, which pieces fall away from the rod hanger 152C by gravity and into the melt.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 22 (paragraph [0057]) with the following rewritten paragraph:

--[0057] After the rods have melted, the holders 311, 376 rotate about the axis A_2 to an inverted position (not shown) such that the seed 378 points downwardly at a location directly below the cable or shaft 320. The holders 311 and seed 378 extend from the axis A_2 no more than a distance e , as shown in FIG 5. To avoid undesired contact between the holders 311 or seed 378 and other portions of the ~~MMR~~, RRM, the illustrated device has open regions 377 that extend above the axis A_2 to a distance f that is greater than the distance e .--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 2 (paragraph [0058]) with the following rewritten paragraph:

--[0058] Although the illustrated open regions 377 are all of the same height, it will be appreciated that the open regions could be of different heights, so long as each open region is tall enough to accommodate the holder 311 or seed 378 to be received therein. It should also be appreciated that an ~~MMR~~ RRM could be constructed without an open region adequate to receive a holder and/or seed. For example, a support member could have an axis A_1 that is horizontally offset from an upper portion of the support member (not shown) so that a holder and/or seed could extend vertically alongside the upper portion, instead of between legs. Or a pivoted member could be constructed so that the holder and free end of the seed are not in a plane that includes the axis A_1 (not shown) such that one of the holder and the free end of the seed angles away from the support member while the other extends downwardly. But such alternate arrangements would be disadvantageous.--